September marks the start of the new school term.
G-
GOOD MORNING, SATORU -KUN.
GOOD MORNING, HIMARI -SAN.
I get to see Satoru -kun every morning.

STEP.27
It makes me really happy, but also just a little bit nervous.

HAVEN'T SEEN THE CAMPUS AND MY CLASS-ROOM FOR A WHILE...
IT'S KIND OF REFRESHING COMING BACK HERE.
EEEE EEEE EHH?!
GOOD MOR-
Ah, it's the same as always.
IT'S DESTINY!!
LISTEN TO ME!!
IT WAS PURE COINCID-ENCE!
YOU MET HINOZAKI-KUN WHILE GOING HOME THAT DAY?!

Geez.
DON'T YOU GO SAYING IT'S FATE OR WHATEVER TOO, HIMARI.
On blackboard, September – Day Duty, Ashihara
REALLY? YOU MET HIM ON THE WAY HOME?!
WE WERE JUST TALKING ABOUT HIM THAT DAY TOO, WEREN'T WE?
IT SEEMS HINOZAKI-KUN MIGHT NOT HAVE A GIRL-FRIEND. OR SO I HEARD!
YOU'RE EVEN WORSE!
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO?! AND WHY DO YOU SOUND SO UNSURE ABOUT IT?!
GOOD JOB, HIMARI!
Hmm
IT'D BE NICE TO BRING THEM A LITTLE CLOSER TOGETHER THOUGH...
NO THANKS!
OH, I KNOW!
HIMA-RI!!!

THE FIRST STEP IS TO GET HIS PHONE NUMBER!
I AL-READY HAVE IT, OKAY?!
EH?
!
ドヴォ
DURING THE FIREWORKS FESTIVAL, EVERY-ONE EXCHANGED NUMBERS TO MAKE IT EASY TO CONTACT ONE ANOTHER.
I SEE... IT'S BECAUSE I GOT LOST...
HIMA-RI...
THAT COULD MEAN I'M BE-COMING SOME-THING LIKE CUPID!!
NICE, OPTIMISM IS THE WAY TO GO!!
グッ

GIVE IT BACK!
Aww
COME ON...
AH.
IF IT'S WITH HIMARI, I'M SAFE!!
Sigh
THEN ALL THAT'S LEFT IS TO SEND HIM A MESSAGE.
WAI-
WHY DO YOU HAVE MY PHONE?!
That's mine!
フキャ
HIMARI, LET ME HAVE...
SENT!
Ring
IT'S BECAUSE I TEXT SATORU-KUN EVERY DAY!
KAI-KUN, YOU LITTLE...
↑ Blames him
Ring ring

OH, I GOT A MESSAGE FROM KASHI-NO-SAN...
WAIT, IT'S ACTUALLY EMPTY?
Achoo
WHAT, THE TWO OF YOU ARE TEXTING EACH OTHER NOW?
Was that an invisible text?
Message sent
Nah, THIS IS A FIRST.
WE MET BY CHANCE THE OTHER DAY AND GOT TO CHAT A BIT THOUGH.
!
That SOUNDS LIKE A FLAG HAS BEEN RAISED.
A FLAG?

Meeting a friend's girlfriend's friends
Like this
BEING TOO MUCH OF A ROMANTIC COMPLICATES THINGS...
WE MET UNDER SUCH MUNDANE CIRCUMSTANCES, I COULDN'T HAVE IMAGINED...
AH, I GET IT NOW! OF COURSE!!
You just realized?
THEN
WHAT DO YOU SAY, IS THIS WHAT I THINK IT IS?

...
HMM.
OBVIOUSLY, IF I HAD TO DECIDE WHETHER I LIKE HER OR NOT, THEN I GUESS THE ANSWER WOULD BE YES...
THAT'S PRETTY WISHY-WASHY.
THEN FOR ARGUMENT'S SAKE...
WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF SHE CONFESSED TO YOU?
E-EEEH?
No,
YOU REALLY NEED TO THINK ABOUT THIS IN ADVANCE!
IF SOMEONE SUDDENLY CONFESSES TO YOU, YOUR MIND WILL GO COMPLETELY BLANK!
Trust me!
WOW, IT SOUNDS SO SERIOUS.

IF SHE CONFESSED TO ME?
Hmm
FEELS LIKE SHE'D GET MAD AT ME FOR EVEN CONSIDERING SOMETHING LIKE THIS...
Ring ring
I messed up earlier >_< Sorry about that
That emoji.
...OR
MAYBE NOT.
I GUESS...

I STILL DON'T KNOW HOW I'D REPLY TO A CONFESSION, BUT...
I'D LIKE TO TRY GETTING TO KNOW KASHINO-SAN BETTER FOR NOW.
Himari
Himari
Himari
SHE STRUCK ME AS THE TYPE WHO'S PRETTY STRICT AT FIRST,
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE THAT'S NOT REALLY THE CASE.

SHE STILL SEEMS PLENTY STRICT TO ME THOUGH.
EH?
?
IS THAT THE IMPRESSION YOU GOT FROM HER?
HOW NICE...
WHEN I WAS PICKING A PRESENT FOR HIMARI-SAN, SHE CAME ALONG AND ENCOURAGED ME...
I CAN ONLY SEE HER AS A WONDERFUL PERSON.
Warm and fuzzy
Hey, I didn't hear about that. Tell me more!
Well, it happened a while ago
...

Wait, the whole "test of courage" thing is only between Ashihara-san and Kai, so it's not like it'd affect Kashino-san and Hinozaki, right? But... Still...
...WHAT SHOULD I DO ABOUT THIS?
Does Hinozaki-kun have a girlfriend?!
Oh.....

TSP trans Touya ~ edit pip25 ~ clean kizuagi Pickles ~ redraw Jules Psymatical Pabe moose ~ type Pabe

U-
UM...
THE NEXT STEP SHOULD BE CONFESSING TO HIM!
HOW ABOUT I START CALLING YOU A CONFESSION FREAK, SHUUKO?
It's okay, right?
A CONFESSION... IS A REALLY SERIOUS THING, SO...
YOU SHOULD GIVE IT MORE THOUGHT AND CONSIDER YOUR FEELINGS CAREFULLY.
AT LEAST I THINK THAT... WOULD BE FOR THE BEST.

I'M SORRY.
BUT IT WAS INSENSITIVE TO JOKE ABOUT THIS IN FRONT OF YOU, WASN'T IT?
ギュッ
IT WAS JUST A JOKE, OF COURSE.
WE KNOW.
AH—
Relief
Why are you so bent on hooking us up?!
STOOOOP!
IF YOU LIKE HINOZAKI -KUN, THEN YOU SHOULD REALLY GO FOR IT-
BUT YAE-CHAN'S FEELINGS ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT!

Hey,
WHO'S ON DAY DUTY?
THE TEACHER SAID TO GO PICK UP SOME PAPERS.
OH!
I forgot about it
Chatter chatter
I—
I'LL GO TAKE CARE OF THIS REALLY QUICK!
Step
WE'LL GO WITH YOU.
IT'S JUST SOME PRINTOUTS, SO I'LL BE FINE!

I WONDER IF IT WAS RIGHT TO PUSH THE SUBJECT...

AT LEAST, I WANT YAE -CHAN TO...
If it's just me. I'm fine with getting what I deserve.
but I'm making things so complicated for the others as well.

SHE JUST WANTS YOU TO BE HAPPY.
And I do too, of course ♡
SERIOUSLY THOUGH...
SHUUKO, INSTEAD OF PLAYING MATCH-MAKER FOR OTHERS SHOULDN'T YOU BE THINKING ABOUT YOUR OWN LOVE LIFE?
MMM...

SURE YOU DO.
Kyaaa
BUT I ALREADY HAVE MY DARLING KEN-KUN!
Ken-kun, the body pillow boyfriend
...I DON'T... TRULY GET IT MYSELF YET.
...YAE, HOW DO YOU REALLY FEEL ABOUT THIS?
B- BESIDES!
OHO? "YET", HUH?

UNTIL HIMARI AND KAI-KUN'S SITUATION
GETS SORTED OUT... I CAN'T...
...SAME HERE.
HUH?

I ALSO THINK IT'S BEST TO PUT MY OWN LOVE LIFE ON HOLD FOR NOW.

NO, THAT'S NOT QUITE IT, BUT NEVER MIND...
I see
SO THAT'S WHY YOU AND OTOGI-KUN HAVE SUCH AN ANTAGONISTIC RELATIONSHIP.
Plus, he's got a girlfriend

SHUU-KO...

MAYBE I'M JUST SAYING THIS TO FEEL BETTER ABOUT MYSELF,
BUT IT'S KIND OF LIKE TRYING TO MAKE UP FOR MY MISTAKE...

YEAH.
Oh,
BUT YOU FALLING IN LOVE IS NOT A PROBLEM THOUGH — IF ANYTHING, I'M ROOTING FOR YOU!!
JUST LETTING YOU KNOW!!
STOP ALREADY!!
I was about to take you seriously!
...CHAN!
ぽた
ぽた
SFX: Footsteps

L-
LISTEN!
H-
HIMA-
RI!?!
Just now...
I GOT A TEXT FROM SATORU -KUN...
HE ASKED IF THE FOUR OF US, YOU, ME, SATORU -KUN...
AND ALSO HINOZAKI-KUN, COULD GO SOMEWHERE TOGETHER NEXT TIME...
001
From Kai-kun
To Ashihara Himari
Subject: Hello
WHA...
WHA AAAA AT?!